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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 12 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, I have the honour to transmit herewith the special communiqué adopted in Caracas on 10 March 2013, in which the Alliance rejects the referendum held by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) Samuel **Moncada**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Special communiqué of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America rejecting the referendum held by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas

[Caracas, 10 March 2013]

We, the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, wish to inform the international community that we reject outright the referendum being conducted by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to decide the fate of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, thereby ignoring the historical right of the Republic of Argentina to these territories.

This claim is an extension of the United Kingdom's imperial colonial policy towards these territories, which started with British colonists occupying the territories and continued with them disregarding the resolutions of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization and carrying out the military occupation of 1982, which cost the lives of more than 700 Argentine soldiers.

In this new chapter in the annals of colonial aggression, the United Kingdom is invoking the right of peoples to self-determination to justify its referendum. This is a flagrant violation of international law, since that principle applies to sovereign nations and not to disputed territories or claims such as those concerning the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

We wish to point out to the nations of the world that this referendum is illegitimate and that its results will have no binding effect on Argentina's claim to these territories.

The United Nations should take a stand in respect of this invalid act carried out by the United Kingdom, which would set a harmful precedent for the settlement of the outstanding anticolonial in the international community.

The United Kingdom should abide by the resolutions of the United Nations and enter into civilized discussions with Argentina, accepting that the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas are an inalienable part of the territory of our sister Republic of Argentina.

We, the member nations of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, call upon all regional integration mechanisms to denounce this new neocolonial claim of the United Kingdom, thus showing our solidarity with the Republic of Argentina.

The Malvinas Islands are Argentine. Down with colonialism and neocolonialism!